

Security Information

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Country: Jamaica (B.W.I.)

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Subject: Extract of Letter *on Jamaica* ~~from Jamaica~~

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The Farmers' Party

1. A new political party has been formed and is called The Farmers' Party. This has sprung from the Farmers' Federation, comprising independent farmers throughout the Island. The Farmers' Party intends to nominate candidates in all the constituencies in the forthcoming elections which will take place in 1954, and their leader, the Hon. R.L.M. Kirkwood, Chairman of the Sugar Manufacturers Association, expects to secure at least 20 out of the 32 seats in the House of Representatives. Although we think that this is on the optimistic side, it is certain that this new party will cause a considerable splitting of votes and will tend to weaken the ranks of both the P.N.P. and the J.L.P. Needless to say, these two latter parties are fighting tooth and nail to suppress the new party.
2. The Jamaica Labor Party suffered a tragic setback with the recent death of the Hon. Sir Harold Allan, Minister of Finance, who was the mainstay of the Labor Party, and Mr. Bustamante's most efficient Minister.
3. Mr. Joseph Malcolm, former Minister for Education, and the sitting M.H.R. for Eastern Hanover, who has been absent from the House of Representatives for over one year, serving a prison term for fraud, has now returned to the House of Representatives and was given a triumphant welcome by members of the Jamaica Labor Party. All decent-thinking Jamaicans look upon his re-entry into the House as a disgrace to the political life of the country, which is becoming more corrupt every day.

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